



Reflecting on our past and looking toward the future

With this issue of the *Journal* we welcome a new year and bid farewell to our 12th Sergeant Major of the Army. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley has certainly represented the enlisted Soldiers and the NCO Corps well. He seems to have an unlimited supply of energy that he's used to improve pay, benefits, education and a multitude of other areas for Soldiers. His travel schedule alone would wear me down in no time. Despite this, every time I've seen SMA Tilley, he's upbeat, positive and willing to listen to Soldiers. All of this and he still has the energy to knock out one-armed push-ups. Read more about SMA Tilley on pages 6-9.

It seems that January is a natural time for reflecting on the past and looking to the future. Part of that reflection is paying tribute to our fallen comrades. As we did in the October 2003 issue, we have included the "Roll Call of the Fallen," a list of all of the Soldiers from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who died defending our country and way of life. In October's issue, we ran the list of those who died from the start of the operations through Sept. 17, 2003. Despite our strong hopes that the January Roll Call would be much shorter, we still have many names on that list. Our intent with running the Roll Call is a small memorial to help us remember those who lost their lives. We should also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who are currently deployed or preparing to deploy.

In the past few months, we've received several letters and e-mails from readers who share their opinions on different topics or offer suggestions for future stories. We may not have the opportunity to respond to all of your letters, but we do read them and consider your suggestions. Several readers suggested that we print an article on preparing for retirement. The *Journal's* managing editor, Dave Crozier who is a retired Air Force NCO, has written a comprehensive article to assist those who are about

to hang up their boots. Knowing firsthand what it's like to go through the retirement process, he used his experiences to write the in-depth article that should set any Soldier on the right track to prepare for retirement. Check out his article on pages 22-25.

With this issue, we've also started a new feature: "Photo Journal," a photo gallery, capturing what NCOs around the Army are doing. Since "Photo Journal" will be a regular feature in each issue of the magazine, we're putting out the call to all photographers. Whether you consider yourself an amateur or a professional, we encourage you to send us your photos. The only guidelines for photo entries is that the photo must demonstrate an NCO or NCOs doing their duties, be it accomplishing a mission, training or taking care of Soldiers. We will print your best photos in each issue. The winning photographers will receive a certificate acknowledging their photographic excellence. Please remember to send caption information and the photographer's name, rank and unit so we can give the photographer credit. Our e-mail and mailing addresses are both listed on the inside cover the magazine.

In addition to photographs, remember we always gladly accept your articles, letters and suggestions. In the case of articles, keep in mind that we are looking for "news you can use." In other words, articles that will help our readers succeed in some aspect of their missions. Our new expanded Web site, <http://usasma.bliss.army.mil/journal> offers readers easy access to all of our back issues and an e-mail link. Please keep in mind that we count on your input and support to keep the *NCO Journal* on track with NCOs' concerns. We look forward to reading your letters. And remember, this is your *Journal*.

Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
Editor in Chief